



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

No. 164

Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of wonder beyond all majesty, You are worthy of our praise. Thank You for the marvel of creation that surrounds us and for Your creative presence that empowers us. Let Your presence unsettle and inspire us, as we seek to live lives of praise and thanksgiving.

Lord, unsettle us when our dreams come true because they are too small, as you inspire us to dare more boldly and attempt to accomplish great things in Your name.

Today, show Your glory, Your justice, and Your peace through the work of our lawmakers. Inspire their hearts to thirst for Your wisdom, preparing them to navigate through life's inevitable challenges and setbacks. Restore in them the wholeness that comes from seeking Your glory in everything they think, say, and do.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, Section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for 2 hours. During that period of time, Senators will be allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first hour and the Republicans will control the second hour.

Following morning business, there will be 40 minutes of debate with respect to H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill. Upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the committee-reported substitute amendment to the bill.

A number of amendments are pending to the bill. If cloture is invoked, we would dispose of any pending germane amendments.

We also expect to reach an agreement today to consider the nomination of Andre Davis to be a circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit. That nomination, we are told, will require a rollcall vote.

We will begin consideration of the Military Construction Appropriations matter, which is important, upon completion of the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill.

Senators should expect the first vote at around 12:15 or 12:30 today. That will be a vote on cloture on the CJS appropriations bill, and additional votes are expected throughout the day.

SENATE BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one thing this body needs is more bipartisanship. The Presiding Officer has done a wonderful job in reaching out during his tenure as a Senator to other Senators, Democrats and Republicans. Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building. The Presiding Officer certainly has filled that role very well. I want to spend a few minutes talking about this.

We have had some dramatic developments take place in the last several weeks. That is as a result of two men who are working very hard to come up with something that would be landmark legislation. We are working so hard on health care reform. It has been extremely difficult to arrive at the point where we are. But we are further now than we have ever been since 1948 in coming up with health care legislation that will make health care more available for all Americans.

Switching from health care to energy and the problems we have with the warming of the Earth, I have known JOHN KERRY for a long time. We were both Lieutenant Governors. We came to the Congress the same year. As a relatively new Senator, I was on a select committee he cochaired, dealing with prisoners of war and those missing in action. I noticed at that time what a fine leader and fine legislator JOHN KERRY was. As a result of his good work with others on that committee, including Bob Smith of New Hampshire, we came up with an outstanding work product in that committee. JOHN KERRY, as we all know, became the Democratic nominee for President of the United States and came very close to being elected President. But he put that aside and went on

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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